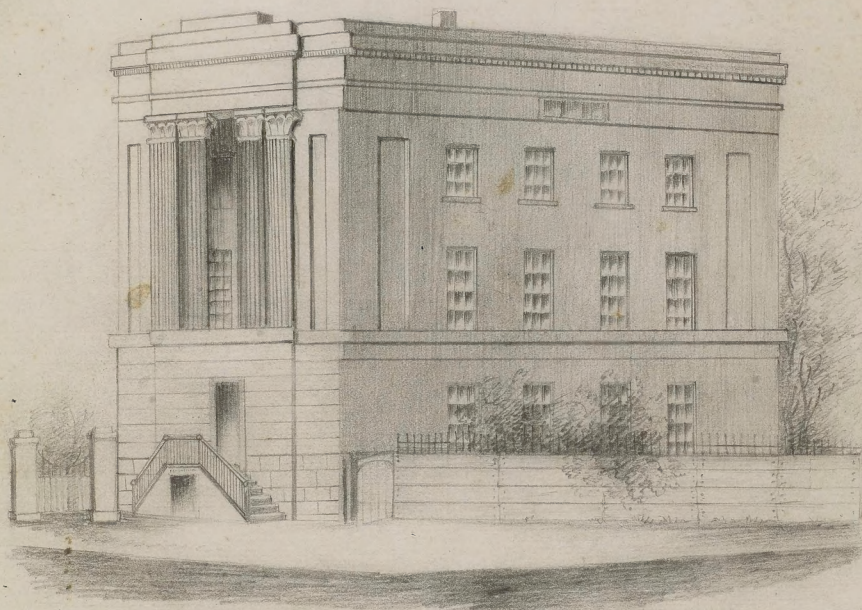


AN ESSAY,

ON

*Medicine in General and on the Superiority of the Homeopathic System*

Respectfully submitted to the Faculty of the



HOMOEOPATHIC MEDICAL COLLEGE

OF

PENNSYLVANIA

On the 1<sup>st</sup> day of February AD. one thousand eight hundred &  
fifty eight

By A. A. de Varona

of Puerto Principe Island of Cuba



# Preface

By one of the regulations of the  
Homoeopathic Medical College of Pennsyl-  
vania, it is prescribed that . . . . .

"The candidate, on or before the first of  
February, must deliver to the Dean of  
the Faculty, a thesis, composed by  
himself and in his own handwriting,  
on some medical subject &c."

In compliance therefore with  
the above, I shall endeavour by this  
essay, to give a bird's eye view of the  
science of medicine in general, and also  
to prove the superiority of that doctrine



which has for its foundation the theory.

*Similia similibus curantur.*

Before, however, beginning this task, which, although easy to an enlightened practitioner, appears difficult, to the more unexperienced mind, of a student of medicine

I must request of you gentlemen of the Faculty kindly to excuse the errors that are likely to occur in the consideration of the subject, and also to overlook the numerous grammatical mistakes, which must of necessity be made, in the composition and phraseology of a foreign tongue.



### Origin of Medicine.

Medicine, came to the world with man.

From time immemorial, a natural instinct, prompted mankind to soothe or to apply a remedy, to the least pain or disagreeable sensation.

Thus, the illustrious philosopher Feijoo, has said that... "He who at the twentieth year of his age, is not able to alleviate his minor sufferings, lacks common sense."

In vain have writers, endeavoured to trace the stream of medical knowledge to its source. In all the savage tribes of Africa; Lapland; New Zealand; New Holland, amidst the indian tribes of North America, numerous, indi-



cations of the art of healing, have ever been found.

In the infancy of the world, there were, of course, no physicians, and all means, however un<sup>n</sup>atural or superstitious were resorted to, for the alleviation of suffering.

One of the earliest of these means was the application of the entrails of a recently slain animal, to the painful part.

Music, was employed as a curative agent, by Democritus, Asclepiades, and others.

Marianus Capellus assures us, that fevers, may be cured by appropriate songs. Poetry, and charms, were used by the Romans, Greeks, and Egyptians.



Archeus, who lived six hundred and thirty years before Christ, has written, that a green jasper cut in the form of a dragon, surrounded with rays, if applied externally, would strengthen the stomach and organs of digestion.

A similar superstition, is still practised by the indians. There is a species of green jasper, found in many parts of America, particularly in New Spain, (Mexico) to which the Spaniards have given the name of *Piedra de la Hada*, and is used for curing the colic, by being applied to the navel.<sup>(1)</sup>

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(1) Amulets are used at the present day, by the less enlightened inhabitants of the West India Islands, particularly of Cuba. The tooth of a wild boar, suspended to a child's neck saves him, they suppose, from all disease during dentition.



The Chaldeans and Babylonians carried their sick to the public roads; that travellers might converse with them, and communicate such remedies, as had been successfully used, in similar cases, in the countries whence they came. This custom, continued for centuries in Assyria; and Strabo states that it prevailed amongst the Lusitanians (Portuguese).

Thus however, the results of experience descended only by oral tradition. But in the lapse of ages human knowledge advanced, independent of Medicine. Important discoveries were made, that greatly aided, the development of sciences, particularly of Medicine and Surgery. Which of these two branches can claim the greatest antiquity would be



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difficult to ascertain. However according to *Sextus Empiricus*, the earliest exercise of the art, was that of extracting arrows.

It was in the temple of *Esculapius*, in Greece that medical information, was first, regularly recorded. Diseases, and their cures were there duly registered, on tablets of marble. The priests and priestesses, who were the guardians of the temple, prepared

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(1) The extraction of an arrow, being a surgical operation, this assertion would seem to imply that surgery was practiced before medicine. But if we consider that an operation must of necessity be followed by medical treatment, we see that both these branches are of necessity of the same age, they are we may say, twin sisters, naturally aiding each other; and although surgery has made perhaps, within the last centuries, more progress than medicine, it is owing to the physical nature of the labor it requires.



the remedies and directed their application: and thus, commenced the practice of medicine, as a regular profession.

The experience thus acquired was consigned and transferred to the successors of these, from one generation to the other, and in this manner, a treasure of medical knowledge and information was accumulated, which was handed down to posterity; abounding, however in errors, absurdities, irrational and incoherent precepts, and many superstitious ideas.



Hippocrates and others improve the healing art

Hippocrates was the first, we may say, who made an effort, to regulate and coordinate this wild mass, of ideas.

(His works and labors, entitled him to the name of Father of medicine, and although written, twenty two centuries ago, they are still read and admired by the profession: and it is but shortly since, that they were epitomised by one of our most distinguished physicians.)

But, although he did much towards correcting the old precepts, and originated new, and perhaps better ones; although his aphorisms are still cited with veneration; we can but admit that many of his principles were founded on hypothetical theories.

Since his time, others have ad-



vanced their ideas, and have thus contributed to a greater or less degree, to the progress of science.

Than medicine, no branch of human learning, can number, more great men among its advocates, not a single century has elapsed, without some new and illustrious name being engraved in the annals of medicine.

After Hippocrates came his two sons Thesalus and Draco, physicians of great renown.

Again we find in the catalogue of illustrious names: Acron famous physician of Agrigentes, contemporary of Pythagoras and Thales, propagator of empiricism among the Greeks.

Crasistrates and Herophilus, whose



anatomical discoveries gave so much luster to the science of medicine.

Scrapion, who practiced according to experience.

Heracleides, who never spoke contrary to the truth; and never believed, but what he had seen.

Asclepiades, a man of great virtue and of powerful genius; founder of a new system; which he introduced in Rome, with extraordinary success, when no other physician had before him. He was allowed to practice his art, in that city.

Celsus, roman citizen, sapient commentator of the dogmatic and empiric systems, rather favourably inclined towards the former.

Andromachus, physician of



Veron, he was the inventor of the universal antidote, theriacque.

Archigenes, chief of the eclectic physicians, distinguished for his knowledge of the pulse. He practiced in Rome with great brilliancy and success.

Thetis de Capadoce, one of the pneumatic sect. He had a great taste for bleeding. We owe to him the first treatise expressed on chronic diseases.

Galen, that king of science who flourished in the second century, as great perhaps as Hippocrates, and Aristotle, whom he had taken as models.

One of the greatest men of whom science can boast.



Paul d'Egine, Oribaze, Traullen, and Aetius, first successors of Galen and who were named, "princes of medicine"

Charmis, native of Marseilles he generalised in Rome the use of the cold bath.

A little later in the history of medicine we have. Marcel the Empiric, native of Bordeaux. From him emanated a complete work on medicine, giving an idea of the manner in which it was practiced among the Gauls about the fourth century.

Avicenna and Averrhoes, illustrious rivals, propagators of the medicine of the Arabs, admixture of the theories of Galen, Aristotle, and some great physicians of that nation



Bornel, who appeared like the lightning, piercing the clouds and ascending unto heaven. Never a more eloquent orator has adorned our chairs; never a more easy and agreeable genius has treated of medicine. He left us too young for the accomplishment of his ambition and the advancement of science.

Duret and Baillon, incomparable glories of the Parisian school.

Paracelsus, extraordinary man, genius above his contemporaries. "Man of fire" says Boreau "under whose hand the organism becomes a living volcano." He burned before a numerous auditors the works of Galen and Avicenna. He created a new doctrine



independent of former theories, comparing the physical with the moral health; he taught that the body also should have its religion and its virtues; that in the entire animal organism the celestial element should substitute the terrestrial; and that flesh should of necessity be spiritualised, in order that it might be healed. He admits of a soul to the body, material though subtle in its nature, serving as intermediate between the flesh and the spirit."

1. I know that the preceding criticism on the character of such a great man as Baraklaus, differs widely from the general opinion. That he had an indefinite amount of self-conceit is certainly innegable. But this is not sufficient reason to say that he was an illiterate enthusiast as Baker calls him, or an insolent drunkard and a brutal and immoral debauchee as Paris denominates him. In fact if such was the



Van Helmont, disciple of Paracelsus, was possessed of a sagacious mind, full of spirit, a man whom the medical philosophers might place at their head. An enemy to the doctrine of crisis. He considered the stomach, as an independent organ with a life of its own, which like an animal, has the power to taste, to like and to dislike. "Without him medicine were lost."

Dulaurens, physician to Henry the fourth, has written the most complete treatise on crisis.

case, if Paracelsus did indulge in an occasional dose of stimulants, we are sorry to see such an elegant and erudite author as Dr. Paris, allude to it, in this disrespectful manner. If it be true that Paracelsus was an eccentric man, the important services he has rendered to the medical profession should lead us to be more considerate in our remarks, and to speak of our predecessors, if not with respect, at least in such a manner as not to injure their reputation or defame their memory.

Soubert, who flourished in the sixteenth centuries, disciple of the school of Montpellier, author of an excellent work entitled, *Popular Errors*.<sup>(1)</sup>

Sydenham, one of the expectant school denominated the English Hippocrates.

Harvey, discoverer of the circulation of the blood.

Baglivi, physician of great renown in Italy, a true follower of Hippocrates, almost cotemporary with Sydenham.

Raël, illustrious Dane, one of the greatest advocates of medicine. He was convinced of the

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(1) A work, bearing the same name was written by Dr J. Primrose of London.



uselessness, of drugs; and of the efficacy of nature alone in curing disease. He was chief of the animist physicians. He considered disease, as an effort of the soul, by which it endeavored to overcome any morbid influence.

Perhaps the dogmatist, was a great reformer, of wide spread reputation, whose name is known in the entire world. He considered the human body, as a complicated machine, where solids and fluids act according to the laws of natural philosophy and hydraulics. According to him the acrimony of the humors was the cause of disease. He therefore belonged to the sect of Humorists.

Haller medical philosopher, of great distinction.

Brown, philosophic physician who generalised disease, into those of increased and diminished excitement, calling them sthenic and asthenic. He reigned as sovereign in the medical world though but for a short period."

Bordeau, the most judicious physician of his age, an accomplished author and practitioner of much talent. His genius has enabled him to judge and criti-

It is said of this extraordinary genius, that before engaging in his daily occupations, he generally indulged, in the moderate stimulus, of one hundred and fifty drops of Camdanum in a glass of whisky.



-like his predecessors. It was from the works of this illustrious individual, that Pichat imbibed his predilections for medical

Collen, the great nosologist, author of one of the most excellent treatises on, Hygiene, and materia medica.

Barthez, another powerful genius enlightened medical philosopher, "true creator of the science of man". His theories replaced those of Boerhaave, Stahl and Van Helmont in the traditional school of Montpellier.

Suseland, nosograph and practitioner of high standing and immense reputation, Editor of a

journal that bears his name; one of the most extensive medical publications that has ever appeared.

Pichat, illustrious follower of Bordeau, creative genius, and had he lived to a more advanced age, that science to which his anatomical works have given a new lustre, would have been still more advanced.

But there remain so many to be enumerated, that they can only be mentioned in a superficial manner and without any chronological order. Those best known to the profession are. Cabanis, author of the unrivalled work upon the relation between physical and moral causes.



Broussais, known as the physician of Valdegrave, inventor of the antiphlogistic system.

The celebrated Bayen die, the famous Hunter and many eminent physicians of the present day whom I shall not mention, ~~out of~~ respect for their modesty.

All these great men have contributed with their labors, contributions and doctrines more or less, reliable, though often erroneous to conduct the science of medicine to the state in which it is now found.

These doctrines were often erroneous it is true, because the animosity which they bear towards each other, clearly de-

monstrated this fact. But nevertheless, their errors, have done this part in the great work of improving our medical knowledge, by giving us a more complete experience, and teaching us thereby, to avoid them, leading us nearer to the true doctrine.

It cannot, of course be allowed, that medicine has reached its apogee, or highest point of perfection; oh, no! it is yet at a sad distance from it; as a science it can not be termed exact, or precise, like mathematics, which is founded on calculation and evident axioms.

The science of medicine deals with the interior of the human



body, which is itself involved  
in the profoundest mysteries. We  
must not therefore wonder and  
complain of its slow progress.

Sciences necessary to medicine

Had it not been for the aid and cooperation of many other sciences, which together with medicine have developed themselves gradually, our art would certainly have remained stationary.

In fact what would have become of the science of medicine had it not been aided in its progress by Natural Philosophy, Botany, Chemistry, and particularly by Anatomy and Physiology? A mere routine, with no other guide to its practitioners than empiricism.

In order therefore that a physician should be well qualified to fulfil his numerous duties



he ought to be familiar, with the qualities, and properties of those external agents which are in immediate and daily contact with man, such as water, air, heat or caloric, light, and others, which are all essential to life; he should be well acquainted with magnetism, electricity, &c. In other words he should understand the laws of natural philosophy..

Botany, mineralogy and zoology, are also essential to a practitioner, that he may understand the natural history qualities and properties

of plants, minerals, and animals. These three kingdoms of nature, form one of the branches of medicine proper, *materia medica*.

A physician should understand toxicology, that he may be able to determine the numerous poisons found in the various kingdoms of nature and thereby avoid them or make use of them, according to the dictates of his judgment.

It is of prime importance that he should be a thorough chemist. For Chemistry teaches us the nature and



properties of bodies, simple or compound, inorganic or organized. It shows us the manner in which every combination is effected, it investigates the action between each particle, molecule or atom of matter, and so necessary is this science, that the who undertakes to practice medicine, ignorant of the affinities of bodies, of their mutual action upon each other, and of the reactive properties of some, is greatly exposed to commit a thousand errors, the consequences of which may often be irreparable.

It may happen that he will administer an appropriate remedy, perfectly well indicated, a remedy which, of itself, would cure the disease. But the patient may with the consent of this ignorant practitioner, take an article of food, or other wise which may be incompatible with the administered remedy, and which will therefore counteract its effects, and prevent its efficacious action. The physician not knowing that what he has done with his right hand, he has undone with his left, will be led astray by his reasoning, he will change the prescrip-



tion, give a drug not suitable to the patient or to the disease, which will of course become aggravated or end fatally through his ignorance.

The same may take place, if he administers two drugs that are incompatible, and which tend to neutralize and counteract each other.

Chemistry, is therefore essential to every practitioner of medicine.

But this is by no means all. An accomplished physician should understand, Pharmacy, and Hygiene; the former, that he may understand the mode

of confecting and preparing his  
drugs, the latter that he may not only  
contribute to the cure, by prescribing  
the due regimen of the patient, but  
also, that he may be able to prevent  
disease by inducing his client to  
live in accordance with its  
laws.



Ditto. Anatomy and Physiology.

There are also many other branches of human knowledge essentially necessary to a thorough medical education. But of all none are so important as the two great natural sciences Anatomy and Physiology.

Indeed so indispensable are they, that being at the present day considered as branches of the science of medicine, I can not pass over them, in such a light manner, without giving, or at least attempting to point out, in what their importance to the practitioner consists.

Physiology, has been defined by some, as the science of life; I should rather say, it is the science that teaches us how we live.

It treats of the functions that each part of the human frame fulfils, showing us in what manner the phenomena that constitute life, are performed.

These phenomena or functions are divided into two kinds, those that relate to the preservation of the species, and those that relate to the preservation of the individual.

The functions that relate to the preservation of the individual, are

subdivided into animal and organic. The animal functions are those of the intellect, of sensation, of locomotion and voice. The respective agents of which are the cerebrum, the nervous system in general, the muscles, and vocal chords &c.

The organic functions are, digestion, absorption, respiration, circulation, secretion, nutrition and calorification.

Digestion, is a function by means of which, alimentary substances when introduced into the digestive canal, undergo different alterations, thus enabling them to be converted into blood, and subsequently



by other processes, which we shall here after explain, into the different tissues of the body. The process of digestion, is subdivided into eight organic actions, these are, prehension, mastication, insalivation, deglutition, action of the stomach, action of the small intestines, action of the large intestines, and expulsion of the feces.

Absorption is that organic function by virtue of which certain vessels, imbibe substances from within and without the human body, this is divided into internal and external. By internal absorption, is meant

not only that which takes place on the external surface of the body, but also that effected, in the digestive canal and respiratory apparatus. The vessels involved in external absorption are the veins and chyliferous vessels. Internal absorption is that effected in the interior of the parts themselves, this is principally carried on by the lymphatics.

It is by means of this important function that those fluids are prepared which are afterwards to be eliminated by the secretory apparatus.

The third function, is that of Respiration. It is that action by means of which, a certain portion of atmospheric air is taken into the system, and exchanged for the same bulk of another gaseous substance, which we expire.

The object of respiration, is to place the materials of the blood, in contact with atmospheric air, that it may be purified.

The phenomena of this function are partly chemical, and partly mechanical.

The chemical action consists firstly, in the generation of carbonic acid gas, which is given out; secondly, in the absorption of oxygen gas.



from the atmosphere, and thirdly, into the formation of a quantity of water, which passes off, in the form of vapor.

The mechanical action, consists, simply in the expansion and dilatation of the chest.

The function of respiration is carried on in the lungs.

Circulation, which is the fourth<sup>th</sup> organic function, denotes the motion of the blood, through the different vessels of the body; its discovery (in the year 1619,) has immortalized the name of Harvey, whom we have

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<sup>th</sup> fourth, in the order that we have enumerated them; not in any other respect.

previously mentioned.

The circulation presents many important phenomena, which would be too long to enumerate at present.

The function of secretion which is next in order, is carried on chiefly in the glands. it consists in the separation of certain materials, from the blood, which are destined to form different important fluids, such as the urine, bile, tears, milk, semen, saliva, &c.

Next in order is nutrition, which is that organic function, by virtue of which, the Hystogenetic, or nutritious material, after

having been properly elaborated, loses its own nature, and assumes that of the different living tissues, in the economy; for this reason it has also been called assimilation. It assimilates the nutritious material to the living tissue.

As fire, calorification, as the word implies it, is the action by which heat, or caloric is generated in the system.

Several theories have been advanced, regarding this most important function. But that which appears to be most plausible, is, that the combination of carbonic acid gas with oxygen.



gen gas, is attended with the same result, in the organism, as it is, out of it; namely, the production of heat.

These then are the seven organic functions. When all these together with the animal functions act harmoniously, we are said to enjoy health; and disease therefore, is nothing more, nor less, than a deranged condition of one or more of these functions.

We therefore see the great importance of physiology to the practitioner of medicine. He can not restore, the deranged function to its normal course, unless he be, acquainted with its action. For the

same reason, that, a machinist cannot properly repair an engine, unless he be acquainted with its mechanism.

This observation however, is perhaps more appropriate with regard to Anatomy which, as we have already stated, is another of the indispensable acquirements of a physician.

The word, anatomy, in itself does not clearly indicate the meaning it is intended to convey; it gives no clear idea of the science which it represents. It is derived from the Greek, and properly signifies to cut, or to dissect.

The term anatomy however

is now appropriated to the science that treats, of the number, shape, structure, situation, and relation, of all the parts of the body.

Perhaps however, in the retention of this word to denominate the science, it was taken into consideration, that one of the ultimate purposes, of anatomy is to enable the practitioner to cut or to dissect with dexterity, for in order to do so, he must understand the structure, situation, &c. of the parts which he has to cut or dissect.

The two preceding sciences, anatomy and physiology are inseparable.

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(1) By practitioner is here meant surgeon; an accomplished physician should be a dexterous surgeon.



One could not exist without the other. For if physiology explains to us, the phenomena of digestion, circulation, sensation &c; anatomy describes to us the various organs that perform these different functions, it opens to us the entire track of the alimentary canal with its numerous divisions, and subdivisions, its position, shape &c. It enables us to trace the vessels that carry on the circulation, through their ultimate ramifications, thus showing us the place where they are invariably to be found. It shows us what is meant by the complicated nervous system, its what manner, parting from its cerebral centre, it extends and ramifies, through the

entire organism.

It is important that the practitioner should pay particular attention to this part of anatomy, for the human race suffers greatly from numerous diseases, originating in the nervous system, many of which are yet incurable.

Which of these two collateral sciences, is most important, would be a difficult question to answer. That anatomy, however, has one great advantage over physiology, is a self-evident fact.

Physiology explains, to us the vital phenomena, by a process of reasoning more or less plausible or convincing. Physiological truths

can be explained, not, demonstrated. A great part, or the greater part, of what is known in physiology, is not, actually known, it is only "surmised or supposed".<sup>(1)</sup> From this results a diversity of opinion between physiologists, and a continual change of theories.

The physiology of today, is not the physiology of yesterday. Some of the most beautiful theories have been overthrown, and what was formerly considered as an ingenious provision of nature, stands only as a humiliating proof of the fallacies of physiology. Theories that were once considered well authenticated have been

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(1) Professor Reed's lecture on physiology. Penn. med. college of Penn. November 1857.



proved false. And what pledge can be given that the doctrines of today will not be replaced by the new ones of tomorrow. In our physiological works we find often repeated the words "It is believed", "We think", "it is generally assumed", "it appears", "it is provable." &c. &c. As if there was no certainty, or as if they were afraid of assuming what is said. But so it is; and "In the study of physiology after devoting a large ~~amount~~ of time to the acquisition of what is known, there is a great deal of time to be spent in learning what is not known."<sup>(1)</sup> Here again as in the practice of medicine, the errors of our

(1) Professor Beeds. do. do. do.

predecessors, have improved, our knowledge, by bringing us nearer to the true path.

The reason for all this fluctuation and versatility of opinion is evidently, this. Physiology treats of the internal action of the human body during life. We can not plunge our eyes into the interior of the living to examine and ascertain what is going on.

Here then is the advantage of anatomy over it. Anatomy treats of the structure of the human body, which does not change after death, and therefore with the aid of a scalpel the formation and minute struc-

ture of the tissues, can be easily ascertained. One can see it, feel it, weigh it, experiment upon it, and the anatomist, is thus ready to do what the physiologist never could.

That is, not only to explain the truths of his science, but also to prove, and authenticate them by actual demonstration.



The preceding studies, as necessary to Homeopaths, as to Allopaths.  
The differences between them.

I have thus far given a slight sketch or an imperfect idea, of those sciences, which by their co-operation, have contributed to the advancement of medicine, and therefore, of the great difficulties, that our limited intellect has to overcome, before it can duly become master of its principles, and be able to apply them with certainty and precision.

These different and numerous branches of study, have to be pursued by the student without regard to the system, of which he is thereafter to become

an adept. Allopaths, and Homeopaths, are thus far united in their labors and researches.

The object of these two systems is the same, - to cure disease; The difference between them, consists in the mode, of curing them. But we shall see this hereafter. For the present let us drop Homeopathy, while I ask this question. "Although medicine" has among its advocates, many illustrious names, although medicine has been aided in its progress, by numerous other sciences, has it ever merited our full confidence? Over! To prove this, very little is needed. Only look at the various

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(1) I here allude exclusively to allopathic medicine.

systems founded by these great men, they contradict and destroy each other, they are known for a short time, and then fall.

Would this be the case if they merited the confidence and approbation of the profession? Not so most assuredly.

"*Opinionum commenta delit diis, naturae iudicia confirmat*"<sup>(1)</sup>. Cicero. But this is no idea of mine, let us listen for a while to what some of the most renowned advocates of the art say on the subject.

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<sup>(1)</sup> Time destroys the fictions of opinion, and confirms the decisions of nature.



Defectioness of the Allopathic  
Therapeutics, according to renowned  
Allopathic practitioners.

Bichat, in the introduction to his general anatomy, gives the following description of the practice of medicine. "Therapeutics" he says, "consists in an incoherent mass of opinions, themselves incoherent, and materia medica, is of all physiological sciences, that in which the limited range of the human mind, is best depicted. It is no science for a methodic intellect. It is a labyrinth, of irrational ideas, of futile observations, of illusory means, of formulas as strange, as they are incomprehensible. It is said that the practice of medicine is disgusting, I say, that at the present day, it is no occupation

for a man of sound reason.

Before Bichat, Stahl, whose genius is well known, was convinced of the falseness, and absurdity<sup>(1)</sup> of the allopathic therapeutics.

Coquet, a physician of great renown in Polouze, in a public dissertation, before the most learned of that city, made the following flattering remark. "In an ordinary disease," said he, "the mouse knows as much as the physician, and in an extraordinary disease, the physician knows no more than the mouse."

Dr. S. Johnson, who is, no doubt, well known to all, says that "physic is a melancholy attendance on misery, a mean

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(1) Falseness, and absurdity are Stahl's own words.

submission to feverishness, and a continual interruption of pleasure".<sup>(1)</sup>

An eminent French writer has observed, that "Physic is the art of amusing the patient, while nature cures the disease."<sup>(2)</sup>

Again, we read in the works of Bordenau, that an eminent physician speaking to one of his colleagues observed "I have changed my mode of practice three or four times in my life." "And I," replied the other "have changed system at many times again."

And lastly, it is but a short time

(1) Dr. Paris's Pharmacologia, ninth edition.

(2) I must however remark that the manner in which some allopathic physicians, physic their patients, is any thing, but amusing.



since, that a professor of anatomy in France, when delivering the introductory to his course before his class, said,

"I confess to you with the greatest pain, that the medicine of our day, our Therapeutics, in fine, offer to us nothing reliable, or really true. In two thousand years, it has not made a single step, it has not advanced or improved an atom, it has not even reached the state of embryo, for it has no germ of life; and unless, another system of Therapeutics based on other principles and considerations, replaces it, medicine will die even before birth."

Basis of the Homoeopathic doctrine

A more pitiful and disgracing description of an art, was never given by its own advocates, than that which occupies the preceding chapter.

But is this the case with regard to the homoeopathic therapeutics? By no means. This doctrine, for which we are indebted to the illustrious Hahnemann, is based upon one simple true and sole principle. "Similia similibus curantur." All in this system is as clear, as simple, and as rational, as its fundamental principles; and in it we see fulfilled, the rules of the last profession which we mentioned.

So evident is this axiom, that it seemed, at times, to flash through the

mind, of many of the ancient and modern practitioners.

Hippocrates in his works, has often avowed, that it was not strange to him. He has for example said, that a drug which will produce strangury will cure strangury when resulting from another cause. In his work entitled, *De morbis popularibus*, we find the following law, "*Dolor dolorem solvit*," "pain removes pain," again in one of his aphorisms "*Gaudet ventriculus frigidus frigidis*," "a cold stomach requires cold things. In another one of his works we note the following remarkable passage. "By similar things, disease is caused, and by developing similar conditions we recover from disease," and again "By vomiting, vomit-



ing is arrested," and in another place, deeper breathing the spirit of Humerus pathy, he says. "That which causes diarrhoea, cough, diarrhoea, and vomiting, is capable of curing these ailments."

Boulton, Desharding, Bursholm, Wherry, and Storch, have severally expressed their adherence to the homoeopathic law.

The celebrated Stahl shows his assent to the same formula in the following words. "The received method in medicine of treating disease by opposite remedies, that is by medicines which are opposed to the morbid phenomena; is completely false and absurd. On the contrary I am convinced that diseases are subdued,

by agents which produce a similar affection).

I could extract many more such quotations, from the excellent introductory address, delivered at the Homeopathic Medical College of Pennsylvania, by Professor C. F. Hempel M. D. on the 12th of October 1857, but the nature of my task will not allow me to be so minute. Nevertheless, I can not pass over, the words of Basilius Valentinius, as quoted in the same address, he said "Like has to be removed by its like not by its contrary, heat, by heat; cold, by cold; stitches, by stitches: for one heat attracts another, one cold, another, as the magnet attracts the iron."

Mode of ascertaining the similarity  
between the disease & the drug.

Some might perhaps inquire, which is the meaning or what is meant by the words, like cures like, and how can the likeness be ascertained?

The explanation is very simple. We all know, that the similarity, is to be ascertained, by provings upon the healthy.

What are these provings?

A person in a healthy condition takes a given quantity of a drug, and observes the effects, or symptoms, which this drug produces. These effects, must of course be pathological, and therefore this drug will cure these same pathological effects or symptoms when



produced by another cause, and this is what we mean by "like cures like".

In this we may say really consists the glorious discovery of the illustrious founder of the Homeopathic law.

Hahnemann, proved upon his own person fifty drugs, which he subsequently administered with uniform success, in diseases characterised by symptoms similar to those which these drugs had produced in him.

After him, upwards of three hundred other drugs, were proved, by his followers, and since that time, almost, all remedial agents, have been similarly examined.

Thus, *Materia Medica*, and  
Therapeutics, which have hitherto  
been the most complicated, and, we  
may say, incomprehensible of sciences,  
find themselves reduced to one sim-  
ple law, of the efficacy of which  
Hahnemann was convinced, by inter-  
rogating nature in his provings, and  
listening to its answer in their effects.

Infinitesimal doses.

Allopathic physicians combat and divide the Homoeopathic doctrine, by alleging, that the infinitesimal doses which are used, are naturally, insignificant, and Dr. North pompously asserts, that they cannot, either by analogy, or upon any other theoretical grounds have any power upon the human frame.

What can we say in answer to this? Shall we point out the immense majority of cures, performed by small doses, or shall we obscure, with Harting.

"In measuring the importance, and value of things, the true explorer of nature knows neither great nor little."

But to illustrate, that small



doses, can and do have the property of producing visible effects. I will copy the following paragraph, from Dr. Hempel's introductory address, page 23.

Pöppe informs us that sixty pounds of water are tinted through and through, by the 60th part of a grain of carmine. Making the millionth part of these sixty pounds, and dividing a single drop of this millionth part into another million parts, the color of each part may still be distinctly recognized through the microscope. Iodine which had been dissolved in 450.000 parts, of water, may still be acted upon by starch, and Kitchen-salt which had been dissolved in 1.640.000 parts of water, is sensibly affected by nitrate of silver.

One grain of copper will impart a blue tint to 10.557. cubic inches of water, thus being divided, into 22,733,600 visible parts. According to Mueller, a grain of musk may be dissolved into Three Hundred and twenty quadrillion parts, each of which is still perceptible by the smell. I need hardly mention the insupportable and yet often fatal effects of passion, or the power of contagium, which may be carried from continent to continent, without losing its murderous energy.

What chemist is not acquainted with the wonderful effect of platinum upon iron, on certain occasions. A bar of iron immersed in strong nitric acid will be immediately decomposed by the acid;

but if previously we touch the iron with a piece of platinum, it becomes passive to the effects of the acid, and it may be immersed with impunity. This bar can impart by contact its passive properties to others, and these, to others, and so on repeatedly. What force develops this power of resistance in the iron, we do not know, but be it what it may it is evident that this effect is owing to the quantity of platinum communicated to the iron by the contact. This quantity being infinitesimal, we see that infinitesimal doses, do, produce the most powerful effects.

(1) This experiment was made by Dr. Leafe on the 3d of November 1857.



## Proofs

But why should we dwell so long on this subject. Such a thing is certainly useless, especially if we consider, that the Homeopatheity of the remedy, does not consist in the minute-ness, of the dose, but alone in its similarity with the disease.

Moreover, why should we dispute and waste argument upon a question which can easily and incontrovertably be proved by facts.

The superiority of the Homeopathic practice has been evidently demonstrated in Germany, France, England and other places.

By the statistics recently made in the Hospitals of Sainte Margarete

in Paris we have the following result.

In the allopathic department directed by Doctors Valleix and Marotte, out of one thousand patients treated for different diseases, one hundred and thirteen died.

In the homeopathic department out of the same number of patients which were there treated by Dr. Vessiers only eighty five died.

The administrators of the Hôpital de Thoirsey (Ain) have declared the same favorable result. According to their books, the mortality has greatly diminished since the hospital was placed in the hands of homeopathic practitioners.

By a letter written by M. Mat-

ton almoner of the Refuge de Marseille, published in the Gazette de Provence in September of 1849, we see that out of 270 cases of cholera (seventy cases of which were of the most alarming character) which were there homoeopathically treated by Dr. Charges there were only 15 deaths when all through the city the mortality exceeded fifty per cent.

The following are some of the statistics, kindly collected by Dr. Ruth in his "Præfallacis of Homoeopathy from the public hospitals of Vienna."

Pneumonia.	Admitted	Died	Deaths per cent.
Allopathic hosp. Vienna	1134	260	23
Homoeopathic do. do.	538	28	5



## Pleurisy

Admitted Died Deaths per cent

Allopathic Hosp.	1017	134	13
Homoeopathic do.	386	12	3

## Peritonitis

Allop. hosp.	628	84	13
Hom. do.	184	8	4

## Dysentery

Allop. hosp.	162	37	22
Hom. do.	175	6	3

## Fever.

Allop. hosp.	9677	931	9
Hom. do.	3062	84	2

## Typhus

Allop. hosp.	9371	1509	16
Hom. do.	7423	219	14

The same Dr Roush gives the statis

rics. of the Hospitals of London,  
Edinburgh, Liverpool, Glasgow, Ling.  
Leipzig and other places, the gene-  
ral result of which is as follows.

Different diseases.		Admitted	Died	Deaths per cent
Hosp. hosp.	Total	119,630	11,791	10.5
Hom do.	do.	32,655	1,365	4.4

Objection to  
Homeopathy -  
Answer.

With all these material proofs, in our favor, it is still very possible that some disputations, enemy of the true doctrine, may think all our logic, overthrown, by the following question. "If it be true that so many proofs exist, and if the superiority of the Homeopathic doctrine is so evident, why is it, that the great majority of physicians still follow the old system?"

Such an objection, at first appears, to be strong, founded on fact; but in reality, it is only superficial, and of but little value.



Truth in it self, is always truth,  
 though it be hidden, unknown,  
 or disbelieved by all.

The Ptolemaic system, which  
 teaches that the sun, moon, planets  
 and stars, revolve around the earth  
 in 24 hours, was universally held  
 to be true notwithstanding its ab-  
 surdity for the space of thirteen cen-  
 turies. And when in the year 1550  
 Nicholas Copernicus demonstrated the plane-  
 tary system as it really is, he was  
 laughed at, and thus a truth now  
 obvious, was unknown for centuries  
 and after its discovery, disbelieved for  
 years by the great majority.

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That the earth rev. move around the sun.

Why is it that three hundred millions of Chinese, to whom missionaries, from different countries have been preaching christianity for centuries, do not believe in it yet, and the immense majority of the inhabitants of that nation, still remain in idolatry, and paganism, nevertheless, can it be doubted but that christianity is infinitely superior to idolatry and paganism).

In the year 1642 the members of the Academie de France, declared unanimously, that the blood did not circulate in the human body. Thirty years after, they still persisted in the opinion that such a thing was impossible. Notwithstanding

the blood does circulate.

We also see in the History of this respectable assembly, that in the year 1609, it expelled one of its members, for having (successfully) treated a case, of intermittent fever, with bark. In fine that select body of the most learned men, was greatly opposed to the inoculation of the vaccine virus, for the space of 40 years, and it was only when three princes of royal blood were inoculated contrary to their will that they consented to admit its advantages.

Who has since then doubted of the efficacy of vaccination, and greatly are we indebted to Jenner for its discovery.



Thus all great discoveries and truths  
have been disputed and disbelieved  
for a time, and afterwards acknow-  
ledged. We may therefore nourish  
the flattering hope, that H Comu-  
gashy will one day be in univer-  
sal favor.

New reasons in favor of Ho-  
meopathy.

The practice of homeopathy in the different capitals of Europe has suffered great opposition.

When the Asiatic cholera reigned in Vienna, Dr Fleishman (a homoeopathic practitioner) cured twice as many as were saved by the old school practitioners, and it was then that the Emperor, removed the restrictions that had previously been imposed upon the practice of homeopathy in his dominions, and established the hospital which has since been the principal school of homeopathy in Europe.

Is not this a new and convincing proof of the superiority of the new system?

We must also remember that the discovery of Homeopathy, dates only from the year 1796, and in the short period of 62 years that has elapsed since that time, the progress it has made far exceeds that of any other doctrine. But this is only an affirmation of what Cicero has said . . . . .

Time . . . . . confirms the decisions of nature.

Making into consideration all these circumstances, and the statistic data of the cures performed in the last mentioned hospitals of Europe, we have resulting the incontrovertable truth that the



new method is, under all circumstances far superior to the old system, and this accomplishes the object of this essay.

Thus the simple formula, "*Similia, similibus*", directly opposed to the old one, "*Contraria contrariis curantur*", producing a radical revolution in therapeutics rendering the treatment of disease; firstly more efficacious, since it cures disease by direct means; secondly, more simple, by banishing the incomprehensible mixtures of drugs, in one prescription; and thirdly, less disagreeable to the patient, by relieving him from nauseating doses, blisters, peas, sinapisms, scotons, leeches, and the murderous lancet; benefits humanity to such an extent, that I can but exclaim with Sharp. "Homoeopathy is a boon to

mankind from the Giver of all  
 good, and it is the duty of man  
 to embrace it, and advocate its cause  
 to the best of his ability



## Conclusion

We can now say that in the annals of science medicine should stand unrivaled in the most prominent place on account of its great importance and utility, its object consisting in the preservation of health and life.

Mathematics, Astronomy, Philosophy, Politics &c. are all useful sciences, and their objects are certainly of prime importance to man. But, to what purpose, would they serve and how could they be applied, without health? Health is undoubtedly, the most precious element of life, and as medicine does



restore it, when it is lost, we can justly say that, man, is not man, without medicine.

Although, it can not create man (this prerogative is too high and alone computes with the master of the universe) it certainly prolongs existence, and impedes the destruction of life.

It is clear that each mortal saved by medicine, can be considered, as a new being, whom without medicine, would have ceased to exist.

Is there any other science in the universe, upon which, the Almighty has conferred this precious faculty. This divine privi-

lege? Is not then a truly scientific physician, one who can thus reconstruct man, the great master-  
piece of nature, almost a second  
Duty! But no, far be it from me  
the thought of comparing man to  
his maker, we are but the instru-  
ments of his divine will.

A. A. de Garona

